



**COLLEGE OF NURSES**  
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND NUNAVUT

## **Fentanyl and Carfentanil Advisory**

### Overview





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## Policy Manual for Nursing Registration in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Fentanyl and carfentanil are extremely potent synthetic opioids linked to a growing number of overdose deaths across Canada. These substances are often found mixed with other drugs—such as cocaine, methamphetamine, or counterfeit pills—without the user’s knowledge. Even very small amounts can be fatal.

### Agencies and Resources

The territorial response to the overdose crisis is being led by several key agencies, including the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and the Government of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services. These organizations coordinate services, deliver education and harm reduction initiatives, and support community-based responses to the overdose emergency.

### Additional Resources

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction: [www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca)

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health: [www.camh.ca](http://www.camh.ca)

Health Canada – Opioid Response: [www.canada.ca/opioids](http://www.canada.ca/opioids)

### Meeting Standards of Practice

Even in challenging circumstances, such as limited resources, an unfamiliar work environment, or a high client load, nurses are expected to uphold the College of Nurses of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (CANN) Standards of Practice. These complex situations often require system-level solutions rather than individual ones.

## Nurses are encouraged to:

The College of Nurses of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (CNNN) is the governing body for nursing in both the NT and NU. Registration is mandated by the *Acts*. These Acts, along with the CNNN Bylaws, and this registration policy manual, outline the requirements and processes for nurse registration.

- Communicate with their supervisor or manager to identify and address barriers to safe, ethical, and competent care;
- Propose and participate in collaborative solutions that promote client safety and quality care;
- Access and use available organizational and professional resources and supports;
- Be mindful of what you share on social media platforms and uphold professionalism and public health measures at all times.

Nurses remain responsible for providing the best possible care under the circumstances, using their critical thinking, professional judgment, and prioritization skills. They must continue to meet professional standards of practice as outlined in the Code of Conduct, ensuring their care remains safe, ethical, and client-centered even in challenging situations.

Nurses should maintain open communication with their employer and contribute to ongoing efforts to improve client care and system-level supports. For further information, guidance, or questions regarding nursing practice and professional obligations, nurses are encouraged to contact CNNN or visit [www.cannn.ca](http://www.cannn.ca), which outlines expectations and available supports for nurses working under challenging or crisis conditions.

